

What Happens in a Coral Reef?



Coral reefs grow in warm, shallow waters. You can find them around the world!



polyps

Coral Grows

A coral reef is made of coral. Look at the shapes and colors of the coral. Did you know that coral is growing all the time?

Coral is made of tiny animals called **polyps** (PAH-lips). Each animal is only about the size of

a pea. When some polyps die, their hard skeletons are left behind. More polyps grow on top. The reef gets bigger and bigger.

What else happens in the coral reef?

blenny

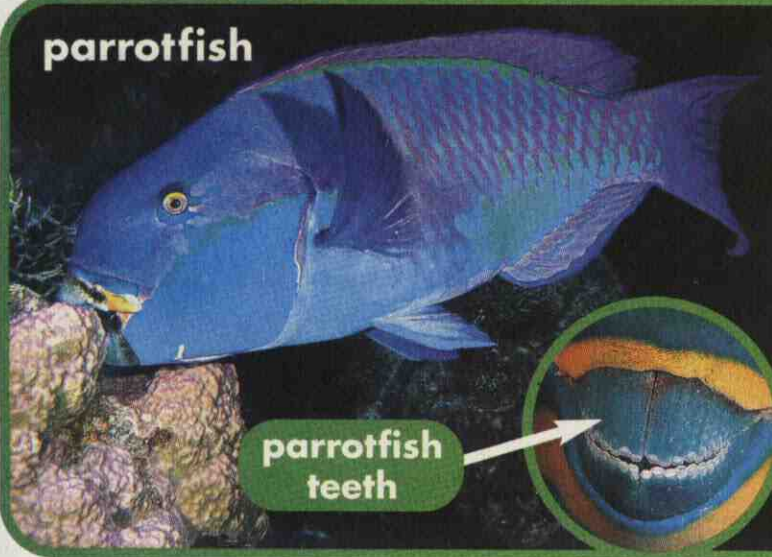


Animals Hide

A coral reef has many hiding places for animals. This little fish found a secret spot. It hides from enemies here.

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parrotfish



**parrotfish
teeth**

Fish Find Food

Animals in a coral reef find lots to eat. A parrotfish eats plants that grow on coral. It scrapes the plants with its teeth. Some people think the teeth look like a parrot's beak. That's how the fish got its name!

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**moray
eel**

**cleaner
shrimp**

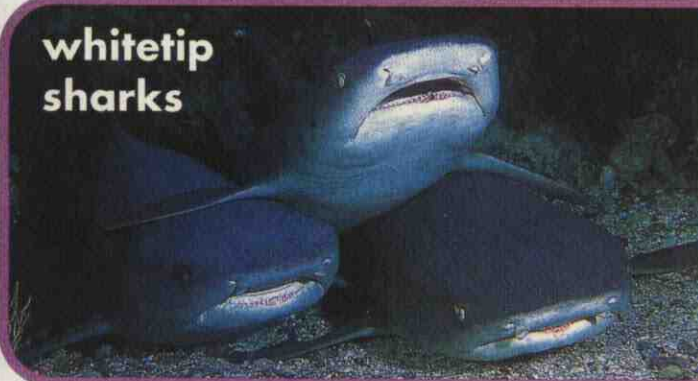


Animals Make Friends

This shrimp and eel live together in the coral reef. They help each other out. The shrimp cleans the eel's teeth and skin. The eel keeps the shrimp safe from enemies.

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**whitetip
sharks**



Sharks Sleep

The coral reef is a busy place, but sometimes the animals take a rest. These sharks pile up together to go to sleep. Sweet dreams, sharks!

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